

TOWN OF AVON

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August 31, 2015

To the Avon Community,

I will be preparing a monthly letter to the community to be distributed electronically. The letter will serve to supplement the quarterly newsletter, information on the Town's web-site and the Annual Report. The purpose of the letter is to highlight various items of interest.

There are so many exciting activities in Town. Sadly, the end of summer brings the end of the Farmer's Market Season at the Avon Free Public Library. The market began on July 6th and will end on August 31st. Of course, fresh produce is still available locally. You may not be aware that the Town leases land on the west side of Tillotson Road to Sub-Edge Farm. You can learn more about the farm at their web site subedgefarm.com. The farm is a great source of local produce.

While the Farmer's Market has come to an end, the Avon Free Public Library has many exciting events planned for the fall. I encourage you to visit their web site at www.avonctlibrary.info. Some highlights include a foreign film series that will be offered on Thursdays. Several special presentations are scheduled including "Medical Ethics a Dialogue." This is a three part series beginning on September 29th at 7:00 p.m. The Library truly has something for everyone.

The Recreation Department has many exciting activities planned for the fall. I encourage you to take a look at the 2015 Avon Recreation & Parks Program Guide. The guide is available online and was recently included as an insert in The Valley Press.

This fall, the Department has partnered for the first time with the Farmington Valley Arts Center to offer Art Classes designed to coincide with days off from school. These classes will focus on working with many different art mediums and are sure to be fun.

Various improvement and maintenance projects are scheduled for Sycamore Hills Park. A bid was recently awarded to a contractor to replace decking and coping in the main and wading pool areas. This work will be completed in the fall. The remaining funds will be used to make repairs to the Pavilion, put vinyl siding on the pump house, do some preventive mason work to the stone retaining wall near the main pool and replace/repair chain link fencing. Repairs will also be made to the exterior of the Senior Center including replacing some window sills and painting and installing a handicap button/access at the main entrance.

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Funding was also included in the FY 16 Capital Budget to install batting cages and dugouts at the baseball field at Buckingham Park. We expect to complete this project in the fall.

The maintenance and improvement of the Town's roads continued to be a top priority over the spring and summer. Old Farms Road from the intersection of Waterville Road to the intersection with Country Club was chip sealed earlier in the season. Drainage repairs and milling have been completed on Briar Hill, Stagecoach and Woodmont with the installation of curbing and final paving to be completed in the next few weeks.

The Town is also budgeting to replace vehicles as they reach the end of their useful life. The Town has taken delivery of a bobcat skid steer included in the FY 16 Capital Budget. A replacement dump/plow truck is on order as are two new fire trucks.

Three solar installations came on line over the summer. The Town executed Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with SolarCity last year for the installation of solar arrays at the Public Works Facility, the Middle School and High School. The installation of the arrays was completed over the summer and they are now fully operational. The combined size of the systems is 463.68 kWDC. The estimated first year kWh is anticipated to be 510,882 kWh.

I also wanted to mention that there is a new face in the Town Offices. I am pleased to announce that Hiram Peck III has joined the Town as the Director of Planning and Community Development effective August 24th. The position was previously held by Steve Kushner who recently retired following 26 years of service. Mr. Peck most recently held the same position in Simsbury and has decades of experience in the planning profession.

Mr. Kushner will continue to work with the Commission over the next year to update the Plan of Conservation and Development. The State requires that the Plan be updated at least every ten years. The process kicked off with a presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission in May. Public input will be sought during the process.

Finally, please mark September 26th on your calendars for Avon Day!

As always, please call or E-mail me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Town Manager